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ABSTRACT

Designed to provoke discussion about the future of the American community college movement, this seven part monograph describes potential changes in its mission to help the colleges adapt to changing political, social, and economic conditions in the nation. Part 1 describes the current role of community colleges in providing job training, economic development, community services, and cost-effective access to education. Part 2 focuses on the need for an educational system that can prepare men and women to meet the needs of the new global economy, appreciate the seriousness of social ills, understand the nation's basic political structure, and participate as informed citizens. Part 3 discusses the community college's potential in reinventing the American educational system, focusing on its ties, articulation, and partnerships with both elementary/secondary schools and other institutions of higher education. Part 4 reviews the functions of the different sectors of higher education, while part 5 focuses on the organizational characteristics of community colleges, including the number of colleges and the services they offer. Part 6 describes necessary elements of a renewed community college mission, focusing on the need to provide a more broadly educated society, a more competent and adaptable workforce, a more involved and better informed citizenry, and a more comprehensive system of lifelong learning. Finally, part 7 summarizes key areas community colleges should consider to prepare for the 21st century. (TGI)

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